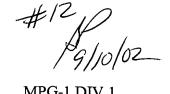


SEP 1 0 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner

Georgia L. Helmer

Group

1638

Applicants

Michael Wassenegger et al.

Application No.

09/782,874

Confirmation No.: 6565

Filed

February 8, 2001

For

NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING POLYPEPTIDES

HAVING THE ENZYMATIC ACTIVITY OF AN RNA-

DIRECTED RNA POLYMERASE (RdRP)

New York, New York September 3, 2002

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the July 1, 2002 Restriction Requirement in the aboveidentified application.

Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Petition for a one-month extension of time for replying to the Office Action and have paid the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §§